

Peter Margiotta

122 Castle Crest Road  
Alamo, CA 94507

March 2, 2004

Mr. Jeremy Arrich  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Local Assistance  
P. O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Arrich:

Re: Comments on Draft In-Delta Storage Program State Feasibility Study

I have been monitoring the progress of the Delta Wetlands Project since 1987. When I first became aware of the project, I was a member of the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee and was initially opposed to the project. I did not support the project because I felt it did not adequately deal with the needs of wetland habitat dependent wildlife. At that time I also had concerns that there may not be a significant need for new surface water storage.

In the more than seventeen years that I have been interested in this project, two major considerations have caused me to change my thinking. The first change was that the project sponsors switched from a four-island reservoir project to a project that includes 9,000 acres of high quality habitat. I could see clearly that this was going to be a fish and wildlife benefit which is an unusual feature for a project that can add to our state's water supply.

The second consideration is that during the development of this project very little has been done to increase water supplies in California. I am more interested in the ecosystem restoration aspects of the CALFED program, but I am afraid that if CALFED fails to recognize the need for additional surface water storage that the whole program could fail.

Although this project does not produce water that will be directly used by those of us living in Contra Costa County, it will substantially strengthen the levees on four Delta islands. Stronger levees lessen the chance of failure and, therefore, reduce the risk of the adverse water quality impacts associated with levee failure. Additionally, the project's environmental enhancements will be a benefit to all Californians, especially those of us who live near or spend time in the Delta.

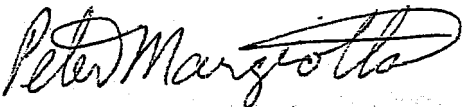
Also, it should be noted that the project will add jobs and sales tax revenue in Contra Costa County.

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In my view the Delta Wetlands project has been stalled far too long and it is appropriate to move forward with in-Delta storage at the earliest possible date. Out of necessity, this may involve the need to accelerate at least the initial evaluation of alternative water projects. Those evaluations should be done in such a manner that project costs and benefits are measured as uniformly as possible in order to avoid distortions.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Peter Margiotta

cc: Mr. Patrick Wright, California Bay-Delta Authority  
Mr. Don Skopec, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Dennis Albani, Office of the Governor  
Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
California State Senate Agriculture and Water Committee  
California State Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate  
The Honorable Richard Pombo, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Tom Torlakson, CA State Senate  
The Honorable Guy Houston, CA State Assembly